

City of La Mesa

ART MADRID Mayor

December 3, 1999

STORIVED

DEC 9 1999

COUNTY JRAND JURY

James T. McCarthy, Foreman San Diego Grand Jury 1999-2000 County of San Diego 330 West Broadway, Suite 477 San Diego, California 92101-3830

Re: Implementation of the Multiple Species Conservation Program

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

The City of La Mesa has reviewed the copy of the San Diego Grand Jury Report entitled "Implementation of the Multiple Species Program" (MSCP). Your letter to the Mayor and Members of the La Mesa City Council requests that the City respond to conclusions and recommendations of the Report which pertain directly to La Mesa.

The Report provides a concise overview of the program's intent and implementation strategies. It accurately determined that there is limited impact from the program in the City of La Mesa, which is essentially built out and has very little land left in natural habitats. The Report also reflects that the City has adopted a local Habitat Conservation Plan in accordance with the regional concepts established in the MSCP. Finding #99-99 accurately states that in La Mesa it is not expected that public funds will be needed to implement the Habitat Conservation Plan.

The second finding that is associated with La Mesa is #99-102. Through the adoption and implementation of the local Habitat Conservation Plan, the City has agreed to the general concept of developing inter-agency cooperative solutions to a truly regional issue such as natural habitat conservation planning. It is agreed that the City should continue to participate through SANDAG in the appropriate identification of "an existing organization or create a new organization to determine an equitable means of funding the long-term-management of MSCP lands."

On behalf of the City of La Mesa, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grand Jury's Report on the implementation of the MSCP.

Sincerely,

Whathakid

Mayor